Task force on Health Tourism

1276. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any task force for providing a number of incentives to promote India as a major health tourism destination to target patients from Europe and Middle East Countries for treatment at super-speciality hospitals and Ayurvedic treatment facilities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b)The Government is in the process of setting up a taskforce to promote Health Tourism in India. The final details are being worked out.

Shortage of Medicines in Unani Dispensaries

1277. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that purchase of Unani medicines by CGHS Stores has not been done (tender procurement) for the past two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of budget lapsed during last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Unani medicines are not available in CGHS dispansaries; and

(d) if so, the measures taken for providing the medicines in CGHS Unani dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During 2002-2003, the CGHS Unani Medical Store Depot (UMSD), Delhi, had procured Unani Medicines in two instalments. These medicines were procured by the UMSD as per the old rate contract for the period 2000-2002. Action has already been initiated to procure Unani medicines for CGHS Delhi for the current year through rate contract and tenders. Regular purchases are being made in CGHS outside Delhi as per the instructions of the UMSD.There has been no lapse of budget during the last three years.

(c) and (d) The Unani medicines are available at the various CGHS Unani dispensaries. The beneficiaries are also allowed to purchase the Unani medicines from the open market in case they are not available in the CGHS dispensary and thereafter reimbursement is made by the CGHS to avoid inconvenience to the beneficiaries.

Legislation to Control Population

1278. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce legislation to control the population growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed against those who violate the norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Constitutional (79th Amendment) Bill, 1992, pending before the Parliament, seeks disqualification of a person for being chosen as, and for being a member of either House of Parliament or the Legislative assembly or, as the case may be, either of the Legislature of the State, if he/she has more than two children, however it will not apply to those persons who already have more than two children or those who beget an additional child within one year of the commencement of the Act.

TB and AIDS scare

1279. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tuberculosis and AIDS-HIVare serious health problems amongst many Indians; and

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the situation with easy access to the health care services?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Tuberculosis and AIDS/HIV are major public health problem in the country.